

What Is A Community Conversation?

Using a model developed by Public Agenda and the Institute for Educational Leadership, Community Conversations help communities to find common ground for public action and ways to work together to address a variety of issues. Conversations are respectful discussions, characterized by full and diverse participation, where real questions are asked, time is shared, and mutual listening and learning happen. Community Conversations:

- Provide opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to speak openly with each other in a safe setting;
- Allow participants to voice personal views on important issues through the process of dialogue and discussion;
- Help find common ground for action among participants who may approach these issues with different perspectives; and
- Support participants as they explore differences so that people previously at odds with one another align on objectives and strategies.

What Will Happen At this Event?

The Community Conversation that you have been invited to will give you an opportunity to provide input on Mansfield Advocates for Children's Plan for Young Children. This plan attempts to develop and implement strategies to ensure that "all Mansfield children are healthy, successful learners, connected to the community." Your role will be to discuss these strategies in an attempt to determine how to best achieve this result. The format for the afternoon will be:

- 2:30- Registration/Introductions
- 2:45- Overview of Mansfield's Plan for Young Children
- 3:15-4:30- Facilitated Small Group Discussions
- 4:45-5:30- Group Presentations/Share a Meal
- 5:30- 6:00- Wrap-Up/Next Steps

Community Conversations are fun, energizing events that help residents to connect with each other around important issues in a meaningful way. Please call 429-3399, press 3933 by March 18 to register for this event and to arrange for childcare if you will need it for that day. We look forward to seeing you on March 26!

Funding for the event is generously provided by the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund